

DHEC Update (June 13, 2015): Greenwood County STEC Investigation

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has provided the following update to a STEC investigation in Greenwood County:

- At this time, DHEC has **confirmed eleven (11) cases** of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) in Greenwood County. The cases involve individuals at The Learning Vine childcare facility and their family members.
- As of today, **194 test results are negative** for STEC.

The three new laboratory confirmed cases are in individuals who either previously had symptoms of diarrheal illness or were asymptomatic, but who are all now symptom-free. **There is no evidence of ongoing transmission related to this investigation, and there has been no new onset of illness in students or staff of the daycare since June 1, 2015.**

Childcare center cleared to re-open:

Today, DHEC notified The Learning Vine that the facility had met the conditions of the public health consent agreement and would be able to re-open on Monday, June 15, 2015. The facility followed all the recommendations issued by DHEC. DHEC also received confirmation from DSS that the facility had corrected the deficiencies cited in the DSS Inspection Report. Before returning to the facility, students and staff must show proof of at least one negative stool sample. Some individuals may be required to have two negative stool samples before returning to the facility based on their history or contact with cases.

As part of this ongoing investigation, DHEC today continued to:

- **Follow CDC recommendations and established agency protocols to investigate the mode of transmission in an effort to stop the spread of the infection**
- Test samples for laboratory analysis
- Notify individuals of their test results and answer any questions of those affected
- Provide updated guidance to individuals affected by the investigation
- Operate a hotline (1-800-868-0404) to provide assistance to those affected

DHEC also held an informational session today for those affected.

DHEC is continuing to collect and test samples for laboratory analysis. Information resulting from this investigation will be provided as it is confirmed, and in accordance with state and federal law. **The laboratory testing performed to screen for STEC has an accuracy rate of 99.7%.**

For more information about STEC and how to prevent it, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/general/index.html>.

**Note to reporters and editors: Due to federal privacy restrictions, DHEC is unable to provide additional information concerning any individual, including details about physical condition, hospitalization, age, sex, and residence.*